



Virginia Green Visitor Center Profile:



Newport News Visitor Center

Newport News, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

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CORE ACTIVITIES for all *Virginia Green* Visitor Centers

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Visitor Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **Newport News Visitor Center** can expect the following practices:

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green facilities must recycle Glass Bottles and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, packing supplies, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment
- Track overall waste bills
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- Make 2-sided copies/ printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase recycled content paper and toilet tissue
- Have installed high efficiency hand-dryers in restrooms
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex paints
- Properly recycle/dispose of thinners and solvents
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory and labeling system
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)

☑ **Green Meetings and Conferences.** Provide recycling and make an effort to reduce the use of Styrofoam and other disposables at meetings and conferences. This partner pledges that they:

- Minimize copying and always make 2-sided copies
- Have eliminated the use of Styrofoam cups and plates; instead they use actual mugs.
- Use silverware instead of plastic utensils.
- Serve water in pitchers and glassware instead of bottles
- Avoid box lunches – trays/platters of food are much less wasteful.

- Many of staff meetings are held on-site or if off-site, carpooling is encouraged.

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Use low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads and low flow toilets
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first)
- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilize drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective stormwater management plan

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- Use LED Exit Signs
- Use high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Use ceiling fans
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

☒ **Support Virginia Green.** Pledge to promote the efforts of Virginia Green to your clients, members and staff and encourage them to join or do business with Virginia Green participants. This partner organization pledges that they:

- Send out emails or mailers to their membership about Virginia Green.
- Set a goal for recruiting their member facilities.

For more information on **Newport News Visitor Center**, see www.Newport-news.org or contact **James Dean** at jdean@nngov.com or **757-886-7919**.

For more information on the **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.state.va.us/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

